

Message Text

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CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PEKING 1762

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: OEXC SEDU TECH TPHY US CH

SUBJ: AMERICAN ACADEMIC AND SCIENTIFIC VISITORS TO THE PRC

REF: PEKING 1660

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. DURING THE PAST TWO WEEKS THE PRC HAS WELCOMED -- THROUGH PRIVATE CHANNELS -- AN EXTRAORDINARY NUMBER AND RANGE OF AMERICAN ACADEMIC AND SCIENTIFIC VISITORS: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS OFFICIAL DR WANG CHI (REFTEL); A SWARTHMORE COLLEGE DELEGATION; A DELEGATION FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN; THE GEOGRAPHY DELEGATION OF THE OHIO ACADEMY OF SCIENCE; RUTGERS PROFESSOR OF NUCLEAR PHYSICS GEORGE TEMMER; AND MIT PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS CHAO CHUNG-TING. IN ADDITION, CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (CAS) DE FACTO HEAD FANG YI RECENTLY GAVE A PUBLICIZED BANQUET FOR AMERICAN PROFESSOR M.C. HIU, WHO HAS COLLABORATED WITH CAS INSTITUTE OF ZOOLOGY SCIENTISTS ON GENETICS EXPERIMENTS FOR THE PAST FIVE SUMMERS. DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS AND INTERESTS NOT WITHSTANDING, ALL OF THESE
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VISITORS -- MANY IN CHINA FOR THE SECOND OR THIRD TIME -- HAVE NOTED THE SAME TRENDS: GREATER FLEXIBILITY AND RESPONSIVENESS BY CHINESE HOSTS; SEEMINGLY SPONTANEOUS EXPRESSIONS OF HOPE THAT SUCH EXCHANGES WITH THE US MIGHT BE INCREASED; UNABASHED INTEREST IN AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY; SCHEDULING OF INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP LECTURES, SEMINARS, OR "EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION" WITH CHINESE SPECIALISTS; AND THE VIRTUAL ABSENCE OF POLITICAL

RHETORIC BOTH IN SET-PIECE BRIEFINGS AND PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS.

PRAGMATISM, ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE, AND INTELLECTUAL ELITISM ARE AGAIN RESPECTABLE AND MANIFESTLY THRIVING UNDER THE HUA-YEH-TENG TRIUMVIRATE. TEACHERS AND PROFESSORS HAVE RECOUNTED, WITH OBVIOUS RELISH, HOW "CLASSROOM CONDITIONS" -- READ STUDENT RESPECT FOR TEACHERS -- HAVE IMPROVED SINCE THE DOWNFALL OF THE GANG OF FOUR. ONE CHINA TRAVEL SERVICE OFFICIAL VOLUNTEERED THAT THE DOWN-TO-THE-COUNTRYSIDE POLICY FOR GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IS TO BE DRASTICALLY MODIFIED TO ALLOW FOR AN ELITE TRACK DIRECTLY INTO UNIVERSITIES. AND CAS OFFICIALS AND SCIENTISTS MANIFEST A BLITHESOME SELF-ASSURANCE BORN OF CERTAINTY THAT THEY ARE THE FAVORED OF THE NEW REGIME.

THIS RATHER SUDDEN BURST OF ENTHUSIASM FOR AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY IS NOT ALTOGETHER SURPRISING; IT REPRESENTS A NATURAL REACTION AGAINST THE ANTI-WESTERN AND ANTI-TECHNOLOGY BIAS OF THE GANG OF FOUR, AN EFFORT TO TASTE IN ONE GULP THE FORBIDDEN FRUITS OF THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS.

THIS POSITIVE TREND CARRIES WITH IT OMINOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR GOVERNMENT-FACILITATED EXCHANGES UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF THE EXISTING NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON US-CHINA RELATIONS (NCUSCR) AND COMMITTEE ON SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION WITH THE PRC (CSCPRC), HOWEVER. THE OHIO GEOGRAPHERS DELEGATION IN PARTICULAR BELIEVES THAT ITS HOST ORGANIZATION, THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ASSOCIATION (STA), DELIBERATELY ORCHESTRATED A BUREAUCRATIC END RUN AROUND EXISTING EXCHANGE

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MECHANISMS TO BRING IT TO CHINA AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING THE PAST TWO WEEKS THE PRC HAS WELCOMED -- THROUGH PRIVATE CHANNELS -- AN EXTRAORDINARY NUMBER AND RANGE OF AMERICAN ACADEMIC AND SCIENTIFIC VISITORS: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS OFFICIAL DR WANG CHI (REFTEL); A SWARTHMORE COLLEGE DELEGATION; A DELEGATION FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN; THE GEOGRAPHY DELEGATION OF THE OHIO ACADEMY OF SCIENCE; RUTGERS PROFESSOR OF NUCLEAR PHYSICS GEORGE TEMMER; AND MIT PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS CHAO CHUNG-TING. IN ADDITION, CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (CAS) DE FACTO HEAD FANG YI RECENTLY GAVE A PUBLICIZED BANQUET FOR AMERICAN PROFESSOR OF GENETICS M.C. NIU. THERE FOLLOW THE EXPERIENCES AND IMPRESSIONS OF THESE GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS AS RECOUNTED IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH USLO OFFICERS.

3. SWARTHMORE COLLEGE DELEGATION. A 17-MEMBER DELEGATION FROM SWARTHMORE COLLEGE, CONSISTING OF STUDENTS, FACULTY ADMINISTRATORS, AND BOARD MEMBERS, ARRIVED IN PEKING ON AUGUST 8 FOR A 2 1/2 WEEK TOUR HOSTED BY CHINA INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL SERVICE (CITS). THE SECOND GROUP FROM SWARTHMORE TO VISIT THE PRC IN THE LAST TWO YEARS, THIS DELEGATION WAS IMPRESSED BY THE

CORDIALITY AND FLEXIBILITY OF ITS HOSTS -- ESPECIALLY AS
CONTRASTED TO EARLIER STIFFNESS AND INFLEXIBILITY. PROFESSOR
KENNETH LIEBERTHAL, WHO HAD BEEN A MEMBER OF THE JULY/AUGUST
1976 HOLT-CZARNECKI STAFFDEL, WAS PARTICULARLY STRUCK BY
THE DIMINUTION OF POLITICAL RHETORIC AND THE EFFUSIVENESS OF
EXPRESSIONS OF FRIENDSHIP FOR AMERICANS. CITS "RESPONSIBLE
PERSON" FOR US AFFAIRS YUEH TAI-HENG VOLUNTEERED AN UNSOLICITED
EXPRESSION OF HOPE THAT A SWARTHMORE DELEGATION -- WITH WHICH
COLLEGE YUEH ALLOWED THAT "FRIENDLY RELATIONS" HAD BEEN
ESTABLISHED -- MIGHT VISIT THE PRC EACH YEAR. THE DELEGATION'S
ITINERARY BOTH IN PEKING AND THE PROVINCES (SIAN, LOYANG,
SHANGHAI, AND CANTON) WAS PREPONDERANTLY TOURISTIC. BUT
CITS ARRANGED FOR DELEGATION MEMBER LILLIAN LI TO MEET IN PEKING
WITH RELATIVES AND IT ENTHUSIASTICALLY ARRANGED FOR DELEGATION
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MEMBER OLEXA-MYRON BILANIUK, A NUCLEAR PHYSICIST, TO LECTURE
AT THE CAS INSTITUTE OF NUCLEARENERGY.

4. UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN DELEGATION (AUGUST 1-15). THE
15-PERSON UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN DELEGATION, COMPRISED OF
PRESENT AND ORMER ADMINISTRATORS PLUS SINOLOGIST KENNETH

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DEWOSKIN, VISITED CANTON, KWEILIN, SHANGHAI AND PEKING FROM AUGUST 1-15. LIKE THE SWARTHMORE GROUP, THE MICHIGAN DELEGATION WAS HOSTED BY CITS AND INTERESTED PRIMARILY IN TOURISM. BUT GROUP MEMBERS EXPRESSED PLEASURE AT THE READINESS OF CITS TO ARRANGE SESSIONS WITH MIDDLE-LEVEL COURT JUDGES IN SHANGHAI AND WITH "BANKERS" IN PEKING. CITS "RESPONSIBLE PERSON" PI HSUEH-CHIEN CONFIDED TO DELEGATION MEMBER DEANE BAKER THAT THE DWON-TO-THE COUNTRYSIDE PROGRAM FOR GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS WAS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING DRASTICALLY MODIFIED. ACCORDING TO BAKER, PI INDICATED THAT THE CREAM WOULD BE SKIMMED OFF THE GROUP OF GRADUATING SENIORS AND BE SENT DIRECTLY INTO "ELITE TRACK" UNIVERSITY STUDIES. FOR THESE THERE WOULD BE NO REQUIREMENT TO ENGAGE IN LABOR IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.

5. GEOGRAPHY DELEGATION OF THE OHIO ACADEMY OF SCIENCE. THE NAME OF THIS 10-MEMBER DELEGATION IS SOMEWHAT MISLEADING; MANY OF THE MEMBERS ARE NEITHER GEOGRAPHERS NOR FROM OHIO. CONFIDENTIAL

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THE CORE OF THE GROUP IS COMPRISED OF PROFESSIONAL GEOGRAPHERS WITH A SPECIFIC INTEREST IN REMOTE SENSING -- MAPPING FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY AND IMAGERY. CHINESE INTEREST IN INVITING SUCH A DELEGATION APPARENTLY STEMMED FROM KNOWLEDGE OF THE EARTH RESOURCES TECHNOLOGY SATELLITE (ERTS) AND OF MAPPING OF SHENYANG MUNICIPALITY DONE BY DELEGATION MEMBER CLIF PANNELL, PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA. PANNELL AND TWO OTHER DELEGATION MEMBERS WERE INVITED TO LECTURE ON THESE ON THESE TECHNIQUES AT THE CAS INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY FROM AUGUST 12-15. DEMONSTRATION MAPS BROUGHT BY THE DELEGATION MEMBERS OF SHENYANG (SCALE 1:100,000) AND OF THE SINO-SOVIET BORDER AREA GENERATED STRONG INTEREST AMONG THE CHINESE SPECIALISTS, WHO THOROUGHLY UNDERSTOOD THE TECHNOLOGY BUT LACKED THE HARDWARE FOR SIMILAR EFFORTS. DELEGATION MEMBERS PRONOUNCED THEMSELVES IMPRESSED WITH THE LEVEL OF RESEARCH AT THE INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY; THEY HEARD LECTURES, WERE GIVEN INTERNAL JOURNALS, AND WERE SHOWN MAPPING PROJECTS IN PROGRESS. IN SESSIONS WITH "CITY PLANNERS" IN CANTON, KWEILIN AND PEKING, THE DELEGATION MEMBERS RECEIVED WHAT THEY CONSIDERED TO BE SUBSTANTIVE AND DETAILED BRIEFINGS ON LAND USE, ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL, POPULATION, URBAN PLANNING, AND SO FORTH. BEFORE EXITING CHINA VIA SHUMCHUN ON AUGUST 27, THE DELEGATION WILL HAVE VISITED CANTON, KWEILIN, CHANGSHA, SHAOSHAN, PEKING, SIAN, TACHAI, NANKING, SUCHOU, SHANGHAI, AND CANTON.

6. DELEGATION MEMBERS EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT THE BANQUET GIVEN THEM BY CAS "RESPONSIBLE PERSON" LIU HUA-CHING ON AUGUST 13 WAS PUBLICIZED BY PRC MEDIA. THEIR TRIP IS BEING HOSTED BY THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ASSOCIATION (STA), THE USUAL COUNTERPART ORGANIZATION OF THE CSCPRC. WHILE UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO CITE SPECIFICS, SEVERAL DELEGATION MEMBERS
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THOUGHT THAT THE STA HAD DELIBERATELY ORCHESTRATED A BUREAUCRATIC END RUN AROUND EXISTING EXCHANGE MECHANISMS TO BRING IT TO CHINA AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT (THE SAME DELEGATION MEMBERS INDICATED THAT THEIR EARLY FEELERS TO THE CSCPRC HAD ELICITED A "GET IN LINE" RESPONSE). WHATEVER THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER, STA HAS ALREADY INDICATED ACCEPTANCE ON BEHALF OF THE INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY OF AN INVITATION BY THE GROUP TO MAKE A RECIPROCAL VISIT TO THE US NEXT YEAR.

7. PROFESSOR GEORGE TEMMMER. PROFESSOR TEMMER, A NUCLEAR PHYSICIST AT RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, IS CURRENTLY VISITING THE PRC FOR THE SECOND TIME. DURING THIS FIRST VISIT IN OCTOBER 1973 HAD MADE THE ACQUAINTANCE OF PROFESSOR YANG FU-CHIA, A NUCLEAR PHYSICIST AT SHANGHAI'S FUTAN UNIVERSITY. THIS RELATIONSHIP PRESUMABLY ACCOUNTS FOR THE RETURN INVITATION TO PROFESSOR TEMMER TO LECTURE ON HIS SPECIALTY TO CAS SCIENTISTS IN PEKING DURING AUGUST 15-19, ALTHOUGH THE FORMAL HOST ORGANIZATION IS CITS. PROFESSOR TEMMER HAS TOLD US THAT HE SENSES STRONG INTEREST BY THE CHINESE IN ESTABLISHING MEDIUM TO LONG-TERM EXCHANGES OF ACADEMIC AND SCIENTIFIC PERSONNEL. (NO FORMAL PROPOSAL HAS BEEN MADE, HOWEVER.)

8. PROFESSOR CHAO CHUNG-TING. WE HAVE NOT HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONTACT PROFESSOR CHAO, BUT NOTE THAT NCNA ON AUGUST 14 CARRIED AN ARTICLE ON FANG YI'S (THE VICE PRESIDENT AND DE FACTO HEAD OF THE CAS) "CORDIAL AND FRIENDLY CONVERSATION" WITH HIM. THE ARTICLE NOTES THAT PROFESSOR CHAO, WHO TEACHES PHYSICS AT MIT, IS IN CHINA "FOR A VISIT AND ACADEMIC TOUR" AT THE INVITATION OF CAS.

9. COMMENT: THE RECENT TREND OF WELCOMING AMERICAN ACADEMICS AND SCIENTISTS TO THE PRC IS POSITIVE AND NOT ALTHOGETHER SURPRISING; IT REPRESENTS IN PART A NATURAL REACTION AGAINST THE ANTI-WESTERN AND ANTI-TECHNOLOGY BIAS OF THE GANG OF FOUR,
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AN EFFORT TO TASTE IN ONE GULP THE FORBIDDEN FRUITS OF THE
LAST COUPLE OF YEARS. IT IS SURELY TOO EARLY
TO DRAW CERTAIN CONCLUSIONS ABOUT CHINESE INTENTIONS AND
ABOUT THE FUTURE OF SCIENTIFIC AND ACADEMIC EXCHANGES.
BUT THE TREND DOES SEEM TO CARRY OMINOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR
GOVERNMENT-FACILITATED EXCHANGES UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF THE
EXISTING NCUSCR AND CSCPRC. THESE ORGANIZATIONS MIGHT
WELL HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE UNIVERSITY AND SCIENTIFIC
VISITS DESCRIBED ABOVE; FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS THEY
WERE CIRCUMVENTED. BY THE SAME TOKEN, THE CHINESE HUHSIEN
PAINTERS DELEGATION SCHEDULED TO TOUR THE US WAS PLANNED
AND ARRANGED WITH REFERENCE TO THE NCUSCR -- SURELY
A DISTRESSING PORTENT FOR THAT ORGANIZATION.
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